GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:457
ANSWERED ON:17.11.2016
Task Force for Illegal Mining
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Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has requested the State Governments toexpedite setting up of State level task forces to curb the illegal mining in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the names of States who have set up task forces in the country so far;

(c) whether the Union Government proposes to create a mechanism to observethe movement of minerals through roads and railways for countering the illegalmining and register the transfer of minerals to different parts of the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof

Answer

(a) & (b): The Central Government in co-ordination with the State Governments has initiated efforts to tackle instances of illegal mining. As per section 23C of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act, 1957, State Governments have been empowered to make rules for preventing illegal mining, transportation and storage of minerals and for the purposes connected therewith in the State.

Ministry of Mines has formulated a three-pronged strategy for prevention of illegal mining, namely:

(i) Constitution of Task Force by the State Governments at State and District Level having a representative of Indian Bureau of Mines (a subordinate office under the Ministry of Mines).

(ii) Framing of rules under Section 23C of the MMDR Act, 1957.

(iii) Furnishing quarterly returns on illegal mining by the State Governments.

Altogether, 22 State Governments have constituted the Task Force namely, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamilnadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal. The function of the Task Force is to review the action taken by member departments for checking the illegal mining activities in their respective jurisdiction.

(c) & (d): The Central Government has amended Rule 45 of the Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, (MCDR) 1988. MCDR, 1988 to provide for measures to ensure scientific management of the mining process. Rule 45 of the MCDR provides for the mining companies to provide periodic reports on the extraction and disposal of the mined material. Rule 45 of MCDR also facilitates end-to-end national-scale accounting of all minerals produced in the country from the pit head to its end-use, reducing the scope for illegal mining, royalty evasion, etc. The amended Rule 45 now makes it mandatory for all miners, traders, stockists, exporters and end-users of minerals to register and report on the production, trade and utilisation of minerals to the State Governments and Indian Bureau of Mines. Up to September, 2016, total 3843 mining leases have been registered online with IBM (excluding 31 minerals declared as minor mineral on 10.02.2015). Similarly, as regards to the status of registration of end users, traders, stockists and exporters, at the end of September, 2016 total 3203 units of end users, 5142 number of traders, 1631 number of stockists and 849 number of exporters have been registered. Indian Bureau of Mines has also requested the State Governments not to issue transit passes for movement of minerals to unregistered operators.

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